



news from ceist...

29 February 2012

CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Feature

CEIST Holy Week Retreat

We return to the Tearmann Spirituality centre in Glendalough, once again, for our annual CEIST retreat which will take place at the beginning of Holy Week 2012.

The retreat will run from Palm Sunday evening, 1st April, until Luncetime Tuesday 3rd April.

For the past two years members of our CEIST school communities have joined us in the Valley of the Saints, under the guidance of Fr Michael Rodgers and Sr Breda Ahearne CP for these days of pilgrimage.

Our experiences have been very different – both in the content of the retreat and the vagaries of the weather!

However, on both occasions the opportunity to take time out at this most sacred time of the year has been deeply appreciated by those who have taken part.

Some of the feedback we have received included the following:

“A most wonderful experience. It gave me many great opportunities to delve into my inner self and realise what’s really important in my life”.

“I so enjoyed the peace and calm”.

“Such an enriching experience I will never forget it”.

“I experienced a beautiful God once again breathing his love, life and energy into me”.

“Time to reflect and go on the journey inward and outward”.

“I found that even though time was short I got the chance to refuel my batteries and enter into the true spirit of this great season”.

If you would like to join us for this very special introduction to Holy Week, or for more information, please contact

Sheila Lee: Email: slee@ceist.ie or Tel: 016510350

The cost of the retreat, which includes accommodation and all meals is €150.00



CEIST News



CS-COP Newsletter

The CEIST Schools Co-operative Purchasing Programme (CS-COP) have launched the first edition of their newsletter.

CS-COP provides CEIST schools with choice to procure products and services through accredited suppliers. Do you wish to know how to reduce your school's print and photocopy costs?

Click [here](#) to download the newsletter.



Finance Matters

Annual Accounts 2010-2011 – Final Reminder!

Thank you to all our school Boards of Management who have submitted their annual school accounts for the 2010-2011 academic year. There still remain a small number of schools who have not yet submitted their accounts and we would be grateful to receive these in the coming days so as to allow the Boards of Management to fulfil their financial obligations under the Articles of Management for Catholic Secondary Schools. Once the accounts are reviewed and approved by the Trustees a copy must be sent to the Financial Support Services Unit in J.M.B.

Annual School Budget 2012-2013

It is that time of year again when schools should start to prepare their annual budget for the coming academic year i.e. 2012-2013. The submission of a forward budget is a condition of the Articles of Management for Catholic Secondary Schools – Section 15(c) and the templates and completion instructions are available on the [CEIST website](#) and on the Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU) website. The Trustees have been in contact with schools regarding the deadline, templates and D.E.S. information to assist in the completion of the annual budget.

Please note that the deadline for submission of the 2011-2012 annual budget to the Trustees is **31st March 2012**. As usual you can contact either Mike Higgins on (01)6510424 or Bernadette McKeown on (01)6510423 for assistance, if required.



Don't Forget



School Feature of the Month

We have a very popular feature on our website called [school feature of the month](#) where we profile a different CEIST school each month.

The feature article is highlighted on the home page of the CEIST website for the month in question.

If you would like to profile your school news, achievements, upcoming or past events, etc, please email jwoods@ceist.ie.



Follow CEIST on Facebook and Twitter

You can now follow the latest news updates from CEIST on Twitter and Facebook.

We invite you to follow us on both social networking sites and would very much welcome your interaction with the Trust via your feedback or comments on these sites.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ceist1

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ceist1

Faith-related Issues



Gathering of the Irish Young Mercy Leaders

On Tuesday Jan 31st the students from across Ireland who attended the Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage in August 2011 were invited to Baginbun St. to continue the conversation about how they can be a leader in their schools embodying the charisma of Mercy.

Fifteen students accompanied by five adults attended. They were from four different schools. It was evident from the moment of their arrival in the house that their enthusiasm hadn't waned since the pilgrimage ended!

[MORE >](#)



Resources for Lent

The CEIST Faith Development Team have shared via our website numerous resources to help you celebrate Lent in your school, which include:

- A PowerPoint lesson for senior classes about preparing for Lent/ Ash Wednesday
- An Ash Wednesday Prayer Service.
- A PowerPoint lesson for junior classes about Shrove Tuesday and Lent.
- A video from BustedHalo.com entitled 'Ash Wednesday in Two Minutes'.
- A short animation entitled 'Jake and Jenny chat about Lent'.
- A Lenten slideshow.
- A PDF version of the February edition of R.E. News.
- A Youtube rendition of Dóchas Linn Naomh Pádraig

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News from CEIST Schools



Presentation Secondary School, Waterford move into new School

On Monday January 27th Presentation Secondary School, Waterford finally moved into their new state of the art facility.

The building campaign has been likened to a marathon that began 13 years ago with Principal, Sr. Fidelis Purcell who then passed on the baton to Principal Terry White, and upon his retirement in August 2011, Mary Ryan who has brought the project over the finish line.

[MORE >](#)



News from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

The Transition Year students have very kindly shared with us their recent news and events.

The TY students were involved in some exciting trips with a visit to Dublin Castle where they met the President, Michael D. Higgins and continued on to Leinster House and then to the Gaity Theatre.

It was noted that a very rewarding and informative talk from Kate Hedigan BCL was given to the class on Law Education.

Finally, the students outlined the success of their Transition Year Work Experience to date.

[MORE >](#)



Seasons For Growth workshop at Christ King Girls' Secondary School, Cork

On Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February 2012, Sr. Sheila O'Brien, Presentation Convent, Crosshaven, presented a workshop, "Seasons for Growth", to members of the Board of Management, Senior Management and teachers of Christ King Girls' Secondary School, together with visiting teachers.

Seasons for Growth is a loss and grief peer-group education programme for young people aged 6-18 years and adults.

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Roddy Doyle visits Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

Roddy Doyle gave 2 workshops in Our Lady of Mercy College on February 6th last.

After a warm welcome from our Head Girl he read from one of his books and then took part in a lively and broad ranging question and answer session.

Students and staff found him inspirational and were delighted that he then presented signed copies of his books to winners in the schools creative writing competition.

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News from Presentation Secondary School, Galway

The Transition Year (TY) class from Presentation Secondary School, Galway, visited Dail Eireann on Wednesday, 25th January 2012.

They were given an informative and enjoyable tour by Senator Rónán Mullen, a Galway native. Click [here](#) for report and photos taken during their visit.

The TY students have also devised a new e-Commerce module which is facilitated by their business teacher Eleanor Fogarty.

The project involves developing an e-Marketing strategy for an illustrated children's book called Willow Mac Wiggles and the Dive Dive Birds. Click [here](#) for more information on the project.

[MORE >](#)

Technical Tips



Guidelines for family-friendly technology use

From laptops to smartphones to gaming consoles, the technology we use is affecting how we live in profound ways - for both good and ill.

A few simple changes in the way you approach technology can help you enjoy all its benefits and keep your family safe from its worst effects.

Parents must use their own judgement and common sense, but below are some suggestions for a healthier relationship with technology.

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iPad Tips and Tricks

Here are a series of little-known tricks and tips for working with your iPad.

From how to take a screen shot, to quick access to volume and brightness controls, and even splitting the keyboard - these tips will help you get even more out of your iPad.

Work your way through the visual gallery of tips courtesy of ZDNet.

[MORE >](#)

Opening Access to Teacher Education and Practice for Students with Disabilities

AHEAD in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority, the Irish Universities Association, the Department of Education and Skills and St. Patrick's College Drumcondra will host a conference on 15th March 2012 on Access to Teacher Training for Students with Disabilities.

Click [here](#) for more information on the event from the ahead website.

CEIST invites you to a day of story, song and reflection

A new purpose and a new hope, a day with Liam Lawton. CEIST invites you to a day with Liam Lawton, which is being held on Wednesday 25th April in the Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe from 9.30am to 3pm.

Booking please by Thursday 12th April to Sheila Lee: 016510350 or email: slee@ceist.ie

Please note there is no fee for attending this day of spiritual renewal.

Board of Management Training Phase 2

The Joint Managerial Body (JMB) are holding Board of Management Training Phase 2 for recently appointed members of boards of management, new Principals and any other board members who wish to attend.

The in-service programme will deal with the financial responsibilities of the Board of Management, the financial responsibilities of the Principal and other aspects of the school's financial management.

Click [here](#) for more information regarding venue details, etc.

Connecting the Head, Heart and Hands

Debt and Development Coalition Ireland, Trócaire, Amnesty and Mayfield Arts Cork, are hosting a major post primary teachers conference on Saturday March 3rd in Athlone on the exciting and topical theme of 'Connecting the Head, Heart and Hands'.

The conference will support educators in developing approaches of 'linking knowing and doing in education' and in discussing the challenges of integrating action into global justice education.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Global Schoolroom

[Global Schoolroom](#) featured on the RTE Nationwide programme on Wednesday February 22, at 7pm on RTE1.

Click [here](#) to view programme on RTE Player.

Presentation Ballyphehane Students win Choral Verse Speaking at Feis Maitiú

Congratulations to Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane, Co. Cork, first year students, under the direction of the Speech & Drama teacher, Mrs Catherine Mahon Buckley, who won the under 15 Choral Verse Speaking at Feis Maitiú.

Send us your news!

CEIST Education Office welcomes profiling of your news for our e-newsletter.

Please share with CEIST your news, events, photos, etc, to jwoods@ceist.ie.

The publication date for our next issue is Friday 30th March, 2012.



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Gathering of the Irish Young Mercy Leaders

Monday 27th February 2012

On Tuesday Jan 31st the students from across Ireland who attended the Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage in August 2011 were invited to Baggot St. to continue the conversation about how they can be a leader in their schools embodying the charism of Mercy.

Fifteen students accompanied by five adults attended. They were from four different schools. It was evident from the moment of their arrival in the house that their enthusiasm hadn't waned since the pilgrimage ended!

Kathy Higgins rsm (MIA) led the students in a guided reflection which helped them to reconnect with their memories of the pilgrimage. A lively discussion and sharing of stories ensued!

The second half of the morning provided students with the opportunity to share how they are fulfilling the commitments made during the pilgrimage. The list seemed endless and included, talking to school assemblies, making presentations to staff and parents, and hosting the International Cup of Tea Event.

During the morning session, the adults met separately and discussed what it means to be a Mercy school and what each person's role is in ensuring the Mercy charism.

This discussion was facilitated by Mary Kay Dobrovonly rsm (MIA) and Margaret Farrell from Ceist (the trustee body overseeing Mercy and other religious schools in Ireland).

Lloyd Bracken (Ceist) facilitated the afternoon session, during which the students and teachers explored together how they can further enhance the spirit of Mercy in the future.

The day concluded with a prayer service exploring the similarities between the life of Catherine McAuley and St. Bridget. Candles were placed in the centerpiece symbolizing their commitment as Young Mercy Leaders.

The students really enjoyed being back in Baggot St. and remembered in a special way their Mercy friends in Australia, England, New Zealand and U.S.A.

Facebook Blurb/Photos

Click [here](#) to view our blurb and photos uploaded to facebook on the event .



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Friday 10th February 2012

On Monday January 27th Presentation Secondary School, Waterford finally moved into their new state of the art facility.

The building campaign has been likened to a marathon - one that began 13 years ago with Principal, Sr. Fidelis Purcell who then passed on the baton to Principal Terry White, and upon his retirement in August 2011, Mary Ryan - who has brought the project over the finish line.

This new school now boasts the finest facilities in the country – Multimedia lab, 3 Science labs, 2 Home Economics kitchens, Music Room, ICT Room, Library, Learning Support Room, Home School Liaison Room and Guidance offices.



Pictured above Anne Kelleher, CEO CEIST presenting gift to School Principal, Mary Ryan.

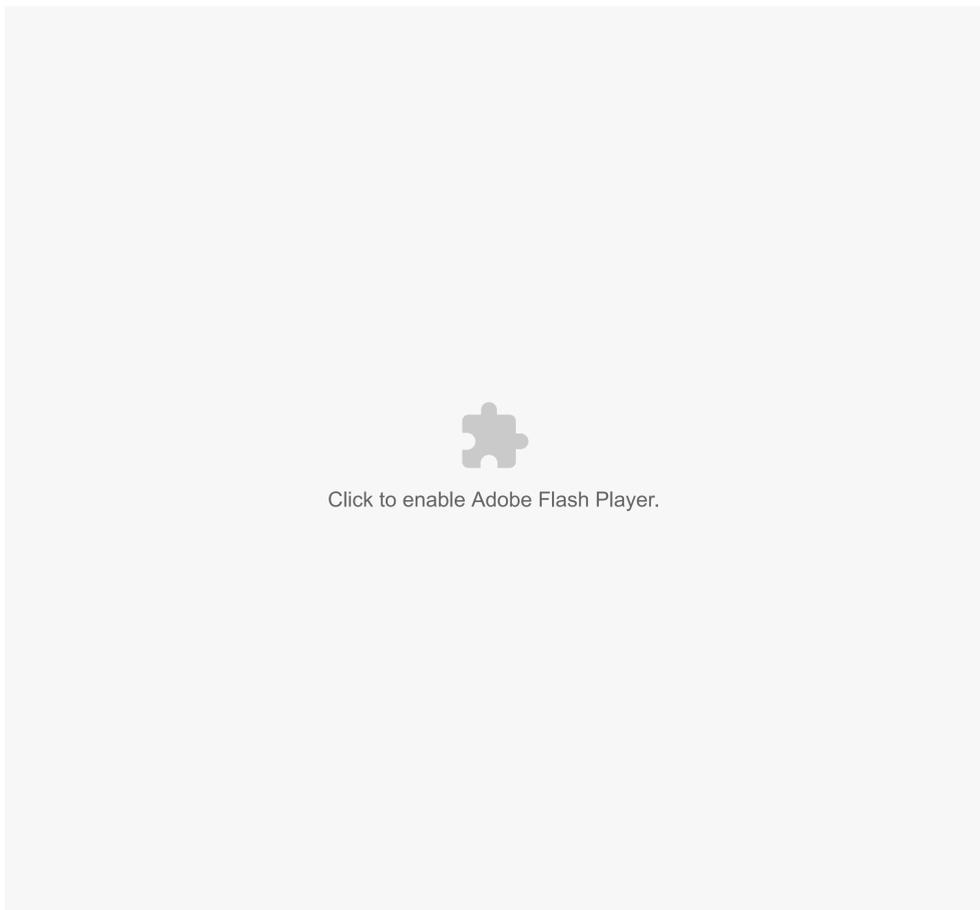
Last week CEIST CEO, Anne Kelleher and Acting Director of School Support Services, Michael Lane, visited the 'old school' one last time and presented the staff with a specially commissioned piece of Waterford Crystal, to mark the occasion of the move to the new school.

On Friday January 25th the staff and students said goodbye to the old school and moved into the new building, with the help of a great team of volunteers.

The first day in the new school began for all year groups with Prayer Services led by Sr. Josephine Deegan (BOM Trustee), Fr. Richard O'Halloran (School Chaplain) and Fr. Pat Fitzgerald (Parish Priest).

As students were told about the new facilities, Mary Ryan (Principal) reminded them that they are part of the CEIST community in the Presentation tradition. Students were brought on tours of the school, and the smiles upon all their faces said it all – they have finally gotten the building they deserve.

New School Photos





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News from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles

Monday 13th February 2012

Transition Year Cultural Trip

On Thursday, the 26th of January, the Pres TY's made their annual cultural trip to Dublin. With an early 7am start, and not returning home until 11.30, it was a tiring, but a very memorable day!

Our first stop was the exquisite Dublin Castle. We learned of its past and present importance, hosting guests such as the Queen, Barack Obama and our very own, Michael D. Higgins.



We then continued to Leinster house, where we watched a debate and learned the history of our Parliament. Our final stop was the Gaeity Theatre, where we saw the brilliant, Robinson Crusoe. With laughs a plenty, songs galore and the occasional 'He's behind you!', we had a great time!



Of course there were opportunities throughout the day for a spot of shopping on Grafton Street. But the highlight of the day was most definitely meeting our President, Michael D. Higgins, who was present at Dublin Castle this particular day. He was more than willing to join in a group photo with us, and told us to enjoy our day.

We'd like to thank all the teachers involved, and especially our Year Head, Ms. O' Keeffe, who organised our day out !

By Shauna O'Flynn TY

Law Day

On Monday the 23rd of January Kate Hedigan BCL came to give our class a talk about Law Education. Most of us did not think it would be very interesting but our opinions soon changed after about 10 minutes into our day!

She captured our attention by giving us a resume of her own career. During the morning session we discussed what we knew about the legal profession and legislation today. We discussed cases that we had heard of and what we knew about them. Kate also explained to us the differences between the work of a solicitor and a barrister.

We learned what life in a prison would be like and I can tell you it would not be nice! Kate told us about cases she had dealt with and explained how a case developed. At the end of the day we were divided into groups of six and each group was given a court case to act out and Kate was the judge.

While some cases were of a serious nature, surprisingly some cases had a humorous element to them. It was a very successful day and every student in Transition year thoroughly enjoyed it. I think a lot of people changed their opinion about the legal system and law as a profession.

By Lydia O'Toole TY

Transition Year Work Experience

This year we have a TY group of 102 girls and finding work experience placements for that many girls during the same week was going to be a challenge.

Thankfully everyone found a place where they could go and learn more about day to day work and many thanks to those who facilitated us.

All of us really enjoyed our last work experience week in November and we are eagerly looking forward to our second exposure to the world of work.

Our placements range from primary schools to pharmacies and some girls have the chance to work in Dingle Ocean-world Aquarium, Bord Na Mona, the blood labs in St. James Hospital in Dublin and with fashion designer Lousie Kennedy!

And of course we must mention our local businesses and their willingness to give us a chance, without whom we could never have successful work experience.

We appreciate the opportunity and hope everyone benefits from the week! Thanks to our teachers, and to our new temporary employers for their help and support.

By Mary-Claire Hanafin



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Seasons For Growth workshop at Christ King Girls' Secondary School, Cork

Wednesday 15th February 2012

On Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February 2012, Sr. Sheila O'Brien, Presentation Convent, Crosshaven, presented a workshop, "Seasons for Growth", to members of the Board of Management, Management and teachers of Christ King Girls' Secondary School, together with visiting teachers.

Seasons for Growth is a loss and grief peer-group education programme for young people aged 6-18 years and adults.

It was first delivered in 1996 and is well established in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

All who attended found the two days a very pleasant experience and would recommend it to anybody working with young people.

The presentation provided some thought provoking ideas for dealing with the challenges that arise in helping young people who have met loss in their lives in any form.



Pictured, Front row I-r Mary Sheridan (B.O.M.CKSS), Cáit Watkins, (Acting D.P. CKSS), Sr. Sheila O'Brien, Carmel Lehane, (B.O.M. CKSS).

Middle row I-r, Pauline Hayes, CKSS, Katie Collins, Niamh Irwin, Grace O' Carroll, CKSS, Marlyn Headworth, CKSS, Suzanne Kelliher, CKSS, Carmel Tobin, CKSS, Aileen Kearns, CKSS.

Back row I-r, Lynda Irwin, CKSS, Kay Collins, Caitríona Lehane, Annemarie O'Reilly, CKSS and Nora Conway, CKSS.



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Wednesday 15th February 2012

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After a warm welcome from our Head Girl he read from one of his books and then took part in a lively and broad ranging question and answer session.

Students and staff found him inspirational and were delighted that he then presented signed copies of his books to winners in the schools creative writing competition.



Roddy Doyle is pictured with senior prize winners and two of our English teachers, Mrs Offiah and Ms Haymes.



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Transition Year class from Presentation Secondary School, Galway, visit Dail Eireann

Friday 10th February 2012

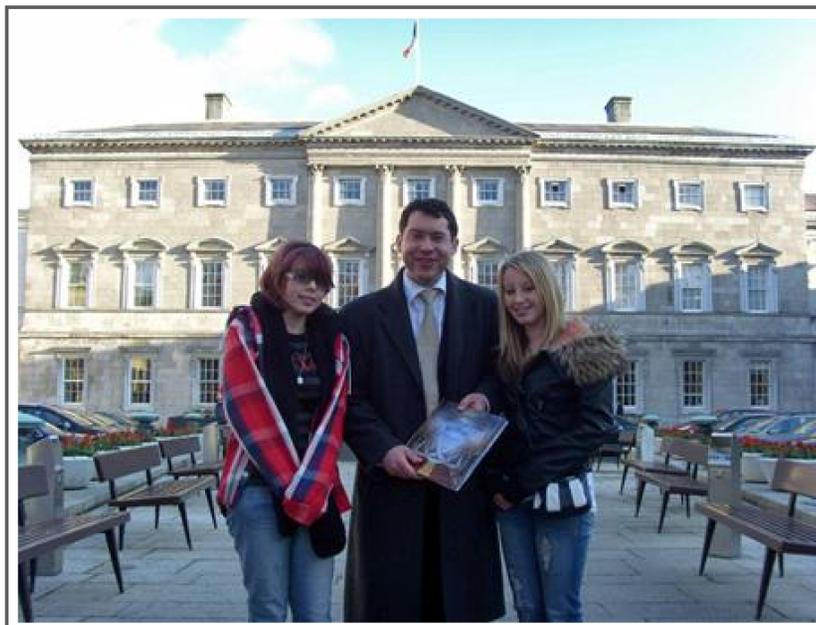
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They were given an informative and enjoyable tour by Senator Rónán Mullen, a Galway native.



The students got an insight into the historical and educational background of both the building itself and the workings of two Houses of the Oireachtas, Dáil Éireann and Senad Éireann.

During the visit, two of the TY students, Claire Ahearne and Louise Sherry (pictured below), presented the Senator with a copy of "A History of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora".



Senator Rónán Mullen, a native of Ahascragh, Co. Galway has been an Independent Member of

Senad Éireann, representing NUI Graduates since July 2007.

Rónán currently serves as a Director on the CEIST Board.



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Guidelines for family-friendly technology use

Monday 13th February 2012

From laptops to smartphones to gaming consoles, the technology we use is affecting how we live in profound ways - for both good and ill.

A few simple changes in the way you approach technology can help you enjoy all its benefits and keep your family safe from its worst effects.

Parents must use their own judgement and common sense, but below are some suggestions for a healthier relationship with technology.

Internet safety and health experts advise setting clear rules and procedures for children such as the following:

- Limit your child's daily 'screen time' to under two hours and ensure they get adequate levels of exercise and outdoor play.
- Minimise mobile phone use by under-16's.
- Have a family-wide 'technology ban' - including TV, texting and the internet - for at least two hours every evening so everyone gets to chat, play and relax together without technological distractions.
- When choosing the inevitable gaming console, pick one that requires full body movement and can give some level of exercise, such as the Nintendo Wii. Use should nonetheless be limited carefully.
- Ask your child to tell you immediately if they ever experience cyber bullying or hostile text messages.
- Use effective internet filtering software to protect against unsuitable content being accessed.
- Keep your internet-connected computer in a family room with the screen facing outward so it can be supervised.
- Only use child-friendly search engines like kids.yahoo.com and askkids.com.
- Avoid having TV's or computers in the child's bedroom.
- Asking your child to tell you if they accidentally visit unsuitable websites, so you can block them.
- Let children know that it's never okay to use or receive abusive or threatening language in an online forum.
- Children must take breaks from the computer every 30 minutes.
- Tell children never to download unknown files from the internet without your permission.
- Never arrange to meet an online friend in person without your knowledge and permission.
- Never to respond to unsolicited messages or spam.
- Not to give out information as to age and gender, or any personal information especially address, registration details and bank details.
- Never visit online chat rooms that are not fully moderated or supervised.
- Parents should be aware of their own internet use and how it may affect their relationships with other family members of the family.
- Parents should report any potentially illegal content to www.hotline.ie

Click [here](#) for more information.